	Application No.	Applicant(s)	
	09/964,898	WATANABE ET AL.	
Notice of Allowability	Examiner	Art Unit	
	Jerome Grant II	2626	
The MAILING DATE of this communication apperation all claims being allowable, PROSECUTION ON THE MERITS IS herewith (or previously mailed), a Notice of Allowance (PTOL-85) NOTICE OF ALLOWABILITY IS NOT A GRANT OF PATENT RI of the Office or upon petition by the applicant. See 37 CFR 1.313 1. This communication is responsive to 7-1-2004.	(OR REMAINS) CLOSED or other appropriate comm GHTS. This application is	in this application. If not included nunication will be mailed in due course. THIS	/e
<u> </u>			
2. The allowed claim(s) is/are <u>34-40,44-46,50-58 and 61-64.</u>			
3. The drawings filed on 27 September 2001 are accepted by	the Examiner.		
 4. Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority una) All b) Some* c) None of the: Certified copies of the priority documents have Certified copies of the priority documents have Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)). * Certified copies not received: Applicant has THREE MONTHS FROM THE "MAILING DATE" on the other priority documents have THIS THREE-MONTH PERIOD IS NOT EXTENDABLE. 	been received. been received in Applicat cuments have been receive	on No ed in this national stage application from the	
5. A SUBSTITUTE OATH OR DECLARATION must be submi INFORMAL PATENT APPLICATION (PTO-152) which give			
 6. CORRECTED DRAWINGS (as "replacement sheets") must (a) including changes required by the Notice of Draftspers 1) hereto or 2) to Paper No./Mail Date (b) including changes required by the attached Examiner's Paper No./Mail Date 	on's Patent Drawing Revie		
Identifying indicia such as the application number (see 37 CFR 1. each sheet. Replacement sheet(s) should be labeled as such in the			
 DEPOSIT OF and/or INFORMATION about the depose attached Examiner's comment regarding REQUIREMENT F 			
Attachment(s) 1. □ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892) 2. □ Notice of Draftperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) 3. ☑ Information Disclosure Statements (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08 ☐ Paper No./Mail Date	6. Interview S Paper No 8), 7. Examiner's	Informal Patent Application (PTO-152) Summary (PTO-413), //Mail Date S Amendment/Comment Statement of Reasons for Allowance JEROME GRANT II PRIMARY EXAMINER	
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Reasons for Allowance

1.

Claim 34 is allowed for the reason the prior art does not teach or suggest in claimed combination, "... wherein said detection device causes said protection cover operation device to open said protection cover when said detection device detects that said image pickup apparatus is in the exterior connection state."

Claim 35 is allowed for the reason the prior art does not teach or suggest in claimed combination, wherein said detection device causes said protection cover operation device to close said protection cover when said detection device detects that the image pickup apparatus comes out of said exterior connection state.

Claims 36 and 37 are allowed for the reason that the prior art does not teach or suggest in claimed combination, wherein said detection device causes said protection cover operation device to open when on the basis of input of a signal corresponding to starting of the image pickup from said exterior device, said detection device detects that said image pickup apparatus is in the exterior connection state.

Claims 38-40 are allowed for the reason the prior art does not teach or suggest in claimed combination, "wherein said detection device causes said protection cover operation device to close said protection cover when on the basis of input of a signal corresponding to finishing of image pickup from said exterior device, said detection

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device detects that said image pickup apparatus comes out of the exterior connection state.

Claim 44 is allowed for the reason the prior art does not teach or suggest in claimed combination, "... wherein said detection device detects said image pickup apparatus is out of the exterior connection state by input of a signal indicating disconnection with said exterior device."

Claim 45 is allowed for the reason the prior art does not teach or suggest in claimed combination, "... wherein said detection device detects said image pickup apparatus is out of said exterior connection state by a signal indicating electrical disconnection with said exterior device."

Claim 46 is allowed for the reason the prior art does not teach in claimed combination, "... wherein said detection device detects said image pickup apparatus is out of the exterior connection state by input of a signal indicating mechanical disconnection with said exterior device."

Claims 50-58 are allowed for the reason the prior art does not teach or suggest in claimed combination, "... said detection device deciding the operation of said protection cover operation device according to the result of the detection."

Claim 61 is allowed for the reason the prior art does not teach a control device communicatively coupled to said protection cover operation device and detecting

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device, wherein said control device is arranged to control said protection cover operating device so that when said detecting device detects that said image pickup apparatus is connected to said external apparatus and a signal from said external apparatus is supplied to said image pickup apparatus through the detected connection therebetween, the protection cover is opened in response to the signal supplied from said external apparatus."

Claim 62 is allowed for the reason the prior art does not teach or suggest, "... wherein said detection step causes said operating step to open said protection cover when said image pickup apparatus is in the exterior connection state."

Claim 63 is allowed for the reason the prior art does not teach or suggest in claimed combination, "... wherein said detection step causes said operating step to close said protection cover when the image pickup apparatus comes out of the exterior connection state."

Claim 64 is allowed for the reason the prior art does not teach or suggest, detecting whether or not a signal related to image pickup is inputted from a functionally connected exterior device, said detection step deciding the execution of said operating step according to the result of the detection.

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2.

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Jerome Grant II whose telephone number is 703-305-4391. The examiner can normally be reached on Mon.-Fri. from 9:00 to 5:00.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Kimberly A. Williams, can be reached on (703) 305-4391. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 703-872-9306.

Any inquiry of a general nature or relating to the status of this application or proceeding should be directed to the receptionist whose telephone number is 703-305-

J. Grant II

3900.

JÉROME GRANT II PRIMARY EXAMINER